
Living Springs

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Cedarville College

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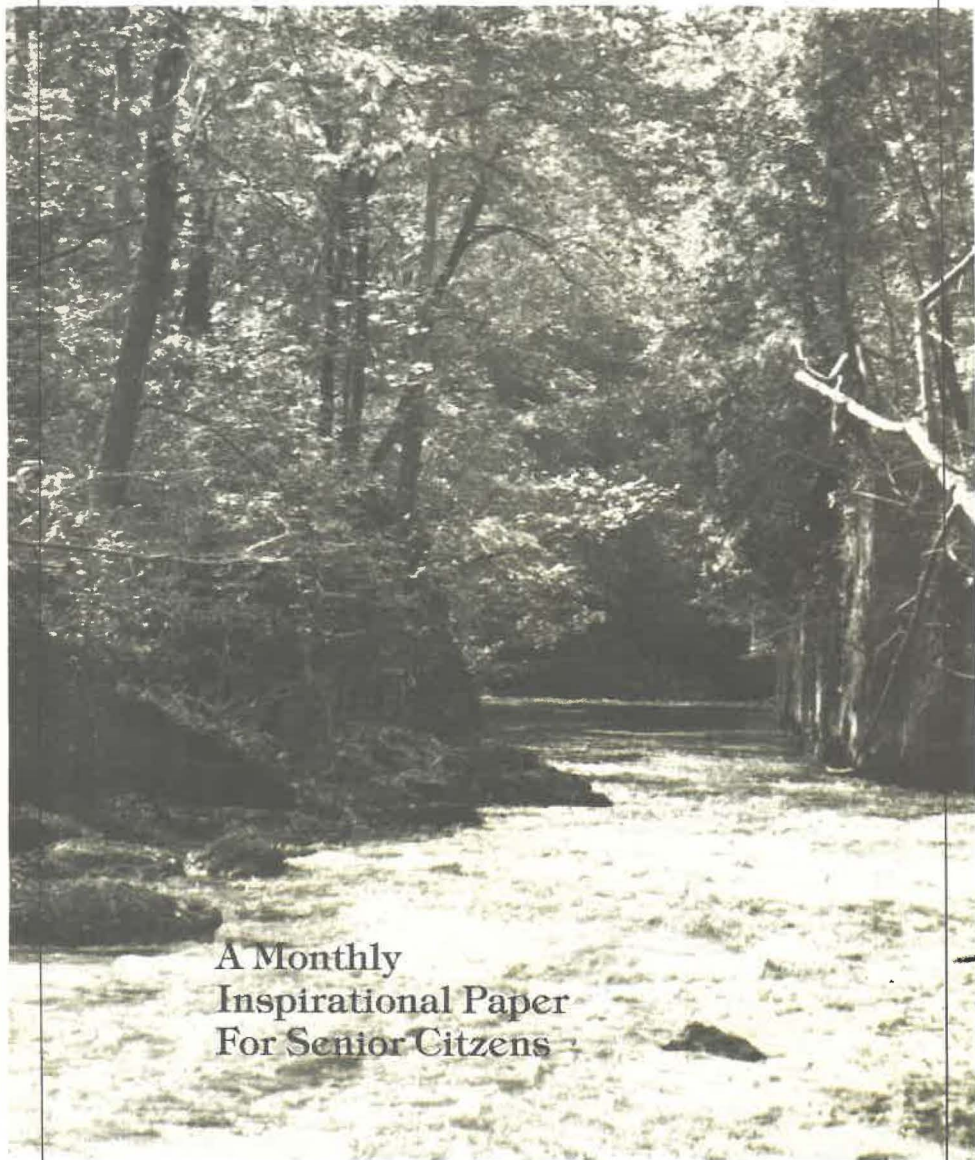
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Living Springs

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A Monthly
Inspirational Paper
For Senior Citizens

MARCH 1981

ASSURANCE

by Lehman Strauss

Do you know for certain that you are saved? Has your soul found settled peace with God? The assurance of salvation is God's wonderful gift to every believer, a present possession for every child of His who will accept it. And I would stress at the outset that this subject of the assurance of one's personal possession of salvation is of vital importance. Many who are rich in this world's goods would pay a large amount of money to possess it. They are frustrated in their search for it.

It is being affirmed by some that it is presumptuous for any person to say with absolute certainty that he is saved, that all of his sins are forgiven, and that he is just as sure of Heaven as though he were already there. Most persons who feel this way have never taken the time to investigate the subject, and some of them never will. But the earnest seeker after truth can be delivered from doubt and confusion if he will pursue the truth with an open mind.

A word of caution should be sounded at this point. It is not possible for one to have the assurance of salvation until he first has been saved. There are possibly many people who lack the assurance of salvation for the obvious reason that they never have been saved. They may have responded to some preacher's invitation to "come forward," or "decide for Christ," or sign a card to indicate their "church preference," but were never truly born again. It is impossible to convince a man in his right mind and who is lost, that he is saved. The man who has never taken his place before God as a guilty, hell-deserving sinner, and as such received the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour and Lord, can be sure only of Hell. So, before you give any further thought to the assu-

rance of salvation, make certain that you have received Christ as your Saviour and Lord.

A word of distinction should be given at this point. We must distinguish between *eternal security* and the *assurance of salvation*. The two are not the same. *Eternal security* is based upon certain objective facts and is dependent upon God's faithfulness, having nothing to do with man's experience. The *assurance of salvation* is a subjective experience, that inner confidence that I am in right relation to God. I need not experience eternal security nor feel eternally secure in order to be secure. The Civil War is a fact in American history. Neither you nor I were present to experience that War, nor are our feelings a determining factor as to the historicity and accuracy of that event.

The Prophet Isaiah wrote, "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and *assurance forever*" (Isaiah 32:17). Four words are used in this verse that are closely related - righteousness, peace, quietness, assurance. The order in which the word are arranged is important. *Righteousness* is first, and rightly so! There can be no peace where there is not righteousness. "Therefore having been declared righteous through believing, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). (*This is the author's own translation.*) God has devised a righteous method whereby He could declare righteous unrighteous sinners who receive His Word and His Son by faith. The moment the believing sinner takes this step by faith, he is reconciled to God, and the effect of the Divine declaration is *assurance forever*, not for a day, or a week, or a month, or a year, or a lifetime, but forever.

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REFLECTIONS of FAITH

by Kathy Jo Kirkbride

No Loneliness With Christ

When it seems that all have left me,
And I've no shoulder to lean on,

I turn to Christ -

There's no loneliness with Christ.

When those around me are too interested in
themselves

To notice me and my aches,

I turn to Christ -

There's no loneliness with Christ.

When the night is dark and cold,
And I can't sleep because of fears,

I turn to Christ -

There's no loneliness with Christ.

He is always there to comfort me,
To talk with, and to be my friend, That's why

To turn to Christ -

There's no loneliness with Christ.

Patty Farmwald

ALONE

I walk alone
but 'tis by choice
Alone indeed
And yet a voice
still speaks.
I ever roam.
I look about
to find I walk alone.
I hear sweet sounds.
How can it be?
I walk alone
yet voices speak to me.
An absent presence,
far away, yet near,
dispells all signs
of loneliness and fear.
Ah yes, 'tis true
I welcome this sweet tone.
It tells me
that I really never walk alone.

Garrison Rice

Tuned by Trials

Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman tells of one of his friends who stood one morning on one of the highest peaks of the Rocky Mountains, bathed in the perfect sunlight of a perfect day. He looked down at his feet and a storm was raging in the valley. He felt almost as if he could step out and walk from peak to peak, so heavy were the clouds. He could almost hear the roar of the thunder and see the flash of lightning, for there was a tremendous storm raging in the valley. As he was looking down suddenly up from the dark clouds came a black body. He looked again, and still a third time, and the great black object was a Rocky Mountain eagle, measuring seven feet from tip to tip of its wings. "As I looked," he said, "the eagle mounted higher and higher, clear above the clouds, and fighting its way through the storm soared high above my head, every feather wet with raindrops, and every raindrop sparkling like a jewel in the sunlight; and I stood watching it until it was lost in the very face of the sun." This is a picture of the Christian rising above the things of the world.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint" (Isa. 40:31). "I had fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living; Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord" (Psa. 27:13-

14). Difficulty is a miracle in its first stages.

There is a story of a German baron who made a great Aeolian harp by stretching wires from tower to tower of his castle. When the harp was ready he listened for the music. But it was in the calm of summer and in the still air the wires hung silent. Autumn came with its gentle breezes, and there were faint whispers of song. At length the winter winds swept over the castle, and now the harp answered in majestic music. Such a harp is the human heart. It does not yield its noblest music in the summer days of joy, but in the winter of trial. The sweetest songs on earth have been sung in sorrow. The richest things in character have been reached through pain. Even of Jesus we read that He was made perfect through suffering.

"Wherein ye greatly rejoice though now for a season if need be ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith being much more precious than of gold that perisheth though it be tried with fire might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (I Pet. 1:6-7). cf. Heb. 12:11

George Mueller said: "The only way to learn strong faith is to endure great trials. I have learned my faith by standing firm amid severe testings." God's purpose in permitting trials in our lives is our growth in grace. As the eagle soars through the mountain storm, so may we rise to higher heights through the problems which He ordains for our lives.

Who Should I Have to Do ____?

By Chuck Ross

How many times during our lifetime do we ask that question? Whether it is to choose a garage, a banker, or even a friend, each person must answer that question many times.

Often the person or institution or business chosen is selected with little thought because it can always be changed if things don't work out.

But, there is one choice that should be made only after careful consideration--the selection of the executor of your estate.

The job of the executor is a mighty big task. The executor must--

- locate and analyze the Will
- see that the Will gets through probate
- protect property against loss or harm
- pay debts, hospital bills, and doctor's bill
- prepare and file estate, inheritance, and income tax forms.
- see that the property is properly distributed

Carefully choose your executor for your Will. Don't burden a spouse, friend, or relative if that person is not able to take on such an enormous task.

A free booklet, "You Can't Take It With You" is available for the asking. It will help you in considering this important matter of financial planning. Write to us for your copy.

THOT: God often digs wells of joy with the spade of sorrow.

This month's senior servants are a couple I have known all my life: Mr. and Mrs. George Creathorne of Boca Raton, Florida. George and Irene will celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary this June. They have served the Lord faithfully for their entire married life.

During these past fifty years they have had various areas of service. George has served as a deacon for several years in addition to being Sunday School Superintendent in almost all the churches they have attended. His continued position as Sunday School Superintendent is in itself commendation for faithful and dedicated service to the local church and the Lord. He also has participated in summer vacation Bible School programs with children of all ages. His love for kids was shown several years ago when George, in his late sixties, went roller skating with the youth group. Because of that outing, he later wore a back brace due to an injury while skating. He is a very fun loving and personable man who loves the Lord deeply.

Irene has shared her talents with many over these past years. Playing both the organ and piano have been an asset to their churches, as well as a method of training young ones. She has been a

THOT: God often breathes life into us and can beautify our lives.

Lahaie

faithful choir member for years and more recently has shared her time and talents by sewing all the dresses for the choir women for a program.

Her sewing abilities have enabled her to share in the lives of many. Throughout the years she has also taught various Sunday School classes and Children's Bible clubs. In the past year she has opened her home in Florida for a neighborhood Bible Study.

This couple's zeal and love for the Lord and His work was evidenced in their choice of a church. The church they attend now they chose because of their desire to be involved with other senior citizens. They are now active in this church.

Truly their love for Christ has been shown through their actions of service. This couple has been a testimony and a blessing to me in my years of growing up as they are my grandparents.

I think many who know them would join me in saying "We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints." (Colossians 1:3-4) May each of us be willing to serve where God places us.

cs our hearts so that He

Note Worthy

By LoAnna Hamilton

Easter is a time for celebrating a great victory of the conquering of sin. Because Christ died on the cross, and then rose from the dead, death has no more dominion over man. Sin can no longer take man to the grave if he acknowledges the saving work of Christ upon the cross and admits that he is in need of that saving work.

Mrs. Cecil Frances Alexander wrote several hymns based on biblical principles. Some of these were based on sermons that her husband preached. "Jesus calls us o'er the tumult" was written for his sermon on the calling of Andrew. Others were written especially so that little children could understand certain biblical principles. "There is a green hill far away" was written to explain the work of Christ upon the cross. The words remind us of His triumphant work upon the cross.

There is a green hill far away,
Without a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all.

He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to heaven,
Saved by His precious blood.

O dearly, dearly has He loved,
And we must love Him too,
And trust in His redeeming blood,
And try His works to do.



JOB

... The Suffering Servant
Part 3 of a 4 Part Series

By Paul Sewell

We often hear people describe a friend as having the patience of Job. While their sincerity may be real, we will find in studying the book of Job, that there is nobody, aside from Christ, who has ever suffered quite like Job. Through the suffering of Job, we can learn much concerning patience. James 1:4 tells the Christian that he can develop maturity while going through the school of adversity.

Job is an excellent study for all Christians because each of us experiences trials no matter what our age. It also teaches us how to display patience in order to be a positive testimony for Christ in the times in which we live.

The important lesson to learn from Job comes through in the way that he handled adversity. First of all, he recognized the sovereignty of God (Job 1:20-22). Job was known as a Godly man and a wealthy man. However, in the midst of all his success he lost his business, his family, and his health. Most people would react by cursing God, yet Job maintained his Godly testimony. Though devastated materially, Job blessed God through his personal suffering . . . Job 1:21, "the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." He also trusted the sovereignty of God by openly worshipping before God and trusting the outcome to God (Job 1:20).

Job was able to accept the trials that were sent to him, however he had a natural, deep, emotional wound with which to deal. Therefore, he simply rested upon the promises of God. His friends criticized Jehovah and Job maintained his trust in God by saying, "For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth." His reply established his firm belief of a promised Redeemer and prophesied resurrection.

As born again Christians, we can recognize the sovereignty of God and rest upon his promises, but still question God concerning his will for our lives. Job saw this problem and realized that he had to accept his own limitations and let God work out his adversity. He did not feel obligated

to question God . . . we see Job's personal plea in chapter 42 . . . "I know that Thou can'st do everything, and that no thought can be withholden from Thee. Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? Therefore have I uttered that I understand not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not . . . wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

Job suffered greatly. He lost all for which he had ever worked. His friends ridiculed him and his health broke . . . he was literally stripped of any earthly goods. Yet in all of this he did not ask God, Why? . . . he was able to recognize the sovereignty of God, rest upon his promises, and then realize that his own limitations kept him from questioning his God. Job handled adversity with patience. He suffered and matured through trials. Job was the suffering servant . . . a Godly man who served in good times as well as bad.

James 1:3-4, "Knowing this that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

A Soft Answer

by Marla Waddle "Weary of His Correction"

Psychologists have been telling us for years that behavior can be conditioned by the use of either positive or negative reinforcement. We reward desired behavior with favorable results and the behavior continues. By the same token, we retard undesirable behavior with unfavorable results. This concept seems to reduce human beings to a rather manipulative level. Yet, the fact remains that we are basically vulnerable to being programmed one way or another when it proves to be worth our while.

When the reinforcement is for positive behavior, everyone involved is happy and benefited. But when punishment for negative behavior comes, it goes against our grain and we become conditioned from doing something we enjoy.

Proverbs 3:11 admonishes us to "despite not the chastening of the Lord, neither be weary of His correction." How disconcerting it is to realize that often our behavior displeases God. But we must realize that He sees beyond the present and knows when our actions will lead to future detriment. Confidence in this fact is what should keep us from becoming weary of His correction.

Quizzle by Gary Welton

Complete these titles and lines of some of our favorite hymns. Then find the underlined word(s) in the word jungle. The word may be vertical, horizontal, backwards, or diagonal.

1. Blessed _____
2. I Love to Tell the _____
3. Wonderful _____ of Jesus
4. What a _____ We Have in Jesus
5. Faith of Our _____
6. At _____
7. Make Me a _____
8. Trust and _____
9. The Old _____ Cross
10. _____ Lord Jesus
11. How _____ Thou Art
12. To God Be the _____
13. There is _____ in _____ Jesus
14. Jesus _____ Me

T S E R I A F A I T H
H A E C A E P G E G J
O B E Y N N E A R N O
U C A R E A F I G I Y
S D E G G U R N N V R
A R N R T L E U I R A
N A A E S H O B S E V
D C L T I E G V S S L
E P O W E R M I E R A
S R E H T A F U L S C
Y R O L G M E M B E P

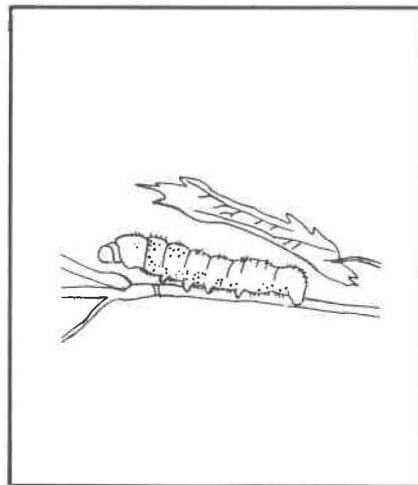
15. O For a _____ Tongues to Sing
16. Does Jesus _____?
17. The _____ of the World is Jesus
18. All Hail the _____ of Jesus' Name
19. _____ to the Heart of God
20. Coming _____
21. _____ is the Victory
22. When _____ Like a River

Looking at God's Creation by Carlene Terlouw

I have always enjoyed the woods and taking many slow and relaxing walks. Those are the times when I really see God's great hand in all the beautiful things He has created.

I remember one fall day when I came upon two soft and cute caterpillars. I leaned down and lifted one up into my hand. Immediately it curled into a tight ball. Then gradually it opened and curiously ventured up my arm.

That small caterpillar resembles a Christian's life. We are happy and content in our normal and natural ways of life. But yet when there is a change in our routine or plans and God picks us up in His hand, we rapidly put up our defenses and are scared to venture out into new things. We encircle ourselves with only those matters which center around us and remain immovable. Then we gain faith in the Father and remember His



promise in Isaiah 41:10 to always uphold us with His hand. Then do we venture out to see what the Lord has in store for our lives.

It has been stated that a caterpillar does most of its growing in its early stages of life. It eats diligently to take in as much food as possible. Such is also true of the Christian. According to I Peter 2:2, a young babe in Christ desires the milk of the Word so that he may grow as God intended.

Another similarity between caterpillar and Christians is how we cling to our earthly pleasures as a caterpillar clings to a leaf or twig. But God changes us completely. II Corinthians 5:17 states that if anyone be in Christ, he is a new creature and that old things are become as new. Also in Romans 12:2 we are commanded to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. The caterpillar does not conform to nature's ways, but is totally transformed into a new creature.

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But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

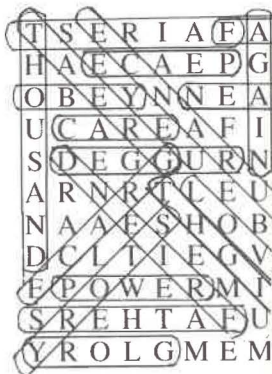
John 4:4

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- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Assurance, | 9. Rugged |
| 2. Story | 10. Fairies |
| 3. Grace | 11. Great |
| 4. Friend | 12. Glory |
| 5. Fathers | 13. Joy, serving |
| 6. Calvary | 14. Loves |
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